

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Corrected drawings are provided in this response as an Appendix.

Claims 1-31 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Seyler (US Pat. 5,255,363) ("Seyler"). The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection.

Regarding claim 1, claim 1 has been amended so as to make more clear that there are two distinct regions of cells: a standard cell region, and a user interface cell region. The user interface cell region includes a plurality of user interface cells that are reserved for access only by a dialog control function, wherein each user interface cell is displayable only within a window that is superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells.

By contrast, Seyler teaches only a single region of cells, as shown in Figs. 4-10 of Seyler. Seyler is silent on a user interface cell region as claimed by Applicant in the claims amended herein.

The Examiner cites Fig. 9, elements 41 and 48 as being a "window superimposed upon spreadsheet cells". This is explained in col. 4, lines 49-56, also

cited by the Examiner, wherein a "data entry window" is superimposed over the cell and neighboring cells. This "data entry window" is NOT the same as the "window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells" of Applicant's claim 1 because Applicant's window displays only "user interface cells", these user interface cells being found in a user interface cell region that is distinct from the standard cell region. Further such user interface cells are ONLY displayed in the window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells. By contrast, Seyler does NOT teach user interface cells as now claimed, only teaching the standard cells found in a standard cell region, as is well-known in the art. In Seyler, at least some of the content of each standard cell is visible to the user even without the "data entry window". By contrast, in Applicant's invention, NONE of the content of a user interface cell is displayed without a dialog control function, as set forth in the claims.

Regarding Fig. 7, element 40, this is a "list window" that displays a variety of "buttons" of various sizes, buttons being a type of graphical object to be displayed by a cell. This is not the same as Applicant's window, because the "list window" of Seyler does not display "user interface cells", instead showing objects for populating standard cells.

Regarding Fig. 6, element 38, this is not a "custom view control function", because Applicant now claims a "custom view control function" as being adapted

to create a window superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells, the window displaying more than one standard cell of the plurality of standard cells. By contrast, element 38 of Fig. 6 of Seyler does not display any cell of the plurality of standard cells. Note that now claims 17 and 18-31 relate explicitly to "custom view control functions", and claims 1-13 and 16 relate explicitly to "dialog control functions".

Claims 10, 11, 12, and 14 have been similarly amended. Claims 2-9 and 13 depend therefrom. Consequently, the rejection of claims 1, 2-9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 2 and 15 specifically, these claims depend from claims deemed to be allowable because they claim subject matter not taught by Seyler. For example, Seyler does NOT teach a "dialog control function", because a "dialog control function" is adapted to provide access to a subset of a plurality of user interface cells that can be accessed ONLY by a dialog control function, as set forth the amended claims. Fig. 9, elements 41 and 48 are merely "data entry" windows, as explained above. Thus, the rejection of claims 2 and 15 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 3, Seyler does not teach each user interface cells. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 3 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 4 and 5, these claims depend from allowable claim 1, and are deemed allowable for the same reasons. For example, the window of Figs. 6-9, elements 41 and 48, is merely a "data entry" window, NOT the window of a "dialog control function". Thus, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 6, 7, 8, Seyler shows a persistent hierarchy of menus 36, 32, 38 in Fig. 6. Seyler does NOT teach a plurality of dialog control functions. Therefore, Seyler does NOT teach a wizard function adapted to manage said plurality of dialog control functions. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6, 7, 8 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 9, Seyler does NOT teach dialog control functions. Moreover, claim 9 depends from claims that are deemed to be allowable. Thus, the rejection of claim 9 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claim 14, claim 14 has been amended so that it is more clear that there are two distinct regions of cells: a standard cell region, and a user interface cell region. The user interface cell region includes a plurality of user interface cells that are reserved for access only by a dialog control function.

By contrast, Seyler teaches only a single region of cells, as shown in Figs. 4-10 of Seyler. Seyler is silent on a user interface cell region as claimed by Applicant in amended claim 14. Claim 14 also requires an application processor for **processing** standard cells and user interface cells, and a user interface processor for **displaying** standard cells and user interface cells. By contrast, Seyler discusses and shows a "Sequential" processor 22 for **executing actions** entered into cells (col. 3, lines 49-50) and a "Data-Driven" processor 24 **checks the "change blackboard" for changes** to the information stored in a memory element (col. 3, lines 53-56). Thus, Seyler lacks all three elements of claim 14. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 14 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 16, 17, these claims depend from an independent claim deemed to be allowable. Further, Seyler does not teach control functions with the functionality of either the dialog control function (as explained previously above) or the custom view function (as will be explained below). Consequently, the rejection of claims 16, 17 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 18 and 23, these claims have been amended such that they now require that the grid lines NOT be displayed, and that at least one "custom view control function" be provided that creates a window that is superimposed upon the standard spreadsheet cells, which window displays more than one standard cell of the plurality of standard cells. Any "control function"

without this stated functionality is not a "custom view control function". Since Seyler does not teach any control function with the functionality of Applicant's "custom view control function", the rejection of claims 18 and 23 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 19, 24, the Examiner makes a number of incorrect statements. For example, Fig. 6 shows a plurality of standard cells, such as cell A1, A2, B2, B4, and A9, for example. In fact, there are 26 x 8 (A-H) cells shown in Fig. 6. The hierarchical pop-up menus 36, 32, 38 are clearly NOT standard cells, as is known by one of average skill in the art of electronic spreadsheets. They can be used to provide graphical objects for inclusion in a standard cell, but the pop-up menus 36, 37, 38, 40 are not cells of any kind. Further, Seyler does not limit cursor movement to the pop-up menus 36, 37, 38, 40 since it's possible to move the cursor to any cell in the spreadsheet at any time, leaving the pop-up menu 40 still up (col. 5, 40-43). By contrast, Applicant teaches and claims limiting cursor movement to a subset of standard cells (see, for example, page 10, lines 5-6). Thus, the rejection of claims 19, 24 is deemed to be overcome.

Regarding claims 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, claims 20 and 25 are canceled. Regarding claims 21 and 26, the Examiner cites Fig. 8 as illustrating "expression lines are not displayed". That's true of Fig. 8, but since claims 21 and 26 depend from claims 18 and 23, herein deemed to be allowable, claims 21 and 26 are

deemed to be allowable as well. Regarding claims 22 and 27, Fig. 8 clearly shows row and column headers displayed, the OPPOSITE of what is claimed in claims 22 and 27. Therefore, claims 22 and 27 are deemed to be allowable.

Regarding claim 28, since Seyler does not teach "custom view control functions", Seyler cannot teach a "custom view wizard for managing a collection of custom view control functions. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 28 is deemed to be overcome.

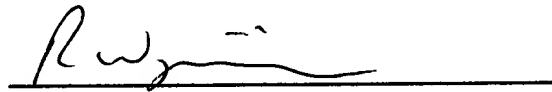
Regarding claims 29-31, Seyler does not teach a "custom view wizard", and so the variations of the "custom view wizard" represented by claims 29-31 are also not taught by Seyler. Thus, the rejection of claims 29-31 is deemed to be overcome.

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Accordingly, Applicants assert that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to phone the undersigned attorney to further the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Weinzimmer', is written over a horizontal line.

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